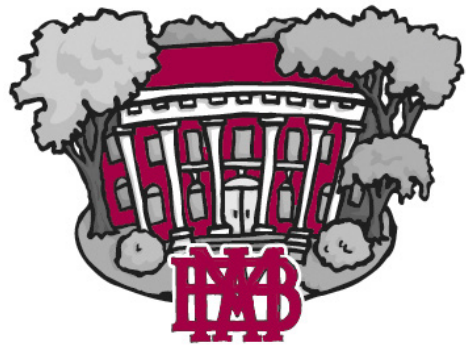


TOP OF THE HILL



MONTGOMERY BELL ACADEMY 4001 HARDING ROAD, NASHVILLE, TN 37205
9 NOVEMBER 2015 VOL. XXI, NO. 1

Laney Reflections

By Sam Meacham

It was early in the morning on September 16 when the 7th grade arrived at school with their bags packed and ready to go on an adventure at Camp Laney. There was a buzz of excitement as students loaded the buses, ready to embark on an unforgettable journey.

Four hours later, we arrived at Laney, in Mentone, AL, and we quickly went to our cabins and unpacked. We then rushed to the fire pit, where our guides introduced themselves and announced that our afternoon activity would be big group games in the field. For two hours we played rock-paper-scissors, tag, and other big group games. After a long break for a snack and Powerade, we divided up into groups with a guide and played team building games. The first game my group played involved swinging all 15 team members across a pit of "lava" in 15 swings. The next challenge was the spider's web, which involved everyone getting through a different hole in a web. These challenges were a great way for people to work on their leadership skills and for us to bond as a group.

That night, after a dinner of chicken fingers and mac & cheese, we played battle ball, which was popular with everyone. We played several intense games, one team winning some, the other team winning some. Mr. Kimball is a great battle ball player and was definitely



everyone's favorite target. After battle ball, we went back to our cabins and got to know everyone in our cabins better. We all slept easily after such a long day.

The next morning we woke up early. We ate breakfast, and then we were divided into groups to do the elements. Elements are ropes courses, and there were six of them: the Bonsai, the Kamikaze, the Pamper Pole, the Zipline, the High Traverse, and the Climbing Tower. We proceeded through the elements, each of them offering a different challenge. From the high climb and leap on the Pamper Pole to the swaying rope on the High Traverse, you were able to do something you were afraid of and accomplish it in an encouraging environment. After the elements were over, we ate dinner, then played more battleball. Then came the campfire. Mr. Gillespie told the story of the Moosilauke Man, which sent shivers through the audience. We did not sleep as easily that night, still remembering the scary story.

We rose early the next morning, sad that our trip was at its last day, but excited for the day's activity. After breakfast, we all gathered around the firepit. The guides announced our challenge. We would have two hours to build and waterproof a boat using only two sheets of cardboard, plastic wrap,

duct tape, and a pen. After two hours, the bell rang. We marched our boat out to the water, along with the rest of the cabins. The guide announced that the cabin to get the most people across and back would be the winner. The challenge started. Only four boats made it across and back once, and only one got across and back twice. The cabin that won the race, with four people getting across and back, was cabin 11.

The trip to Camp Laney was a great experience. It brought our grade closer together and helped people make new friends. The whole trip to Camp Laney can be summed up by everyone's experience on the Kamikaze. I think it is safe to say that pretty much everyone was a little scared to go off the giant swing at the end, but most were able to conquer their fear through encouragement by their friends and teachers. Camp Laney was a great time for doing something out of your comfort zone and being able to accomplish it through encouragement from others.

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Camp Laney

Into the Elements

By Andrew Bulgarino

On Wednesday, September 16, the seventh graders embarked on an epic journey to Mentone, Alabama. We went to Camp Laney, where we set out to conquer the most intimidating, the most knee-shakingly awesome, and the most fun ropes courses ever.

One of the obstacles was the Pamper Pole, by far the scariest one, where the climber has to ascend a shaky pole using only metal pegs for grips and footholds. This element created the most dread and fear anyone could ever imagine. I remember when my feet touched the ground after I completed this obstacle, my legs were

shaking like there was an earthquake. You could either climb all the way to the top of the pole, or you could stand on a platform a couple of feet below the top. I decided on the platform, but

a surprising number of people chose the top. Once you were either on the top or the platform, you had to jump and grab hold of a bar. Most people caught it, but some were bitterly disappointed.

Another obstacle to conquer was the Zipline. This element wasn't nearly as dreadful or intimidating as the Pamper Pole, but it was one of the



Drew Wilson

best obstacles and served as a pleasant and enjoyable break from some of the more mortifying situations. Most of the campers just sat back and relaxed as they were zooming by.

The next obstacle was Bonsai, another fun but easy element. The task included walking across a small tightrope with ropes for balance provided on either side. Once across, you faced a small but mysterious swing.

The fourth obstacle was the High Traverse, which might as well have been called "Upper Body Workout: Extreme Edition". This combined two different courses into one, and you could choose which one to complete. On one of the courses, you had to climb up a tree using metal pegs, which weren't very helpful. Then you had to walk across a small tightrope, this time with only one rope for balance. It was much harder than some of the previous elements. I remember that I only just made it to the other side, and my arms were extremely sore afterwards. On the other course, you had to climb up a tree using metal pegs and walk across a tightrope as well, but instead of a horizontal rope for keeping balance you had to use vertical hanging ropes. I opted to stick with the first one, so I'm not sure how hard the second one was. Overall, the High Traverse was

one of the more difficult ropes courses.

The fifth element was rock climbing. Most walls were quite challenging, and only the best climbers could manage it. I made it to the top on only the easy walls; the same went for most of my peers.

The sixth and final element, my favorite, was the Kamikaze, the obstacle not only with the best name but with the best swing. This course was the most fun, but probably caused the most knee-shaking. First, you were to first climb up a cargo net, then you had to walk across a shaky bridge that consisted of wooden planks, wooden pegs, and rope loops. One boy tried to run across the entire bridge, and let's just say it did not end well for him. Once you made it to the other side, you had to swing from what seemed like the tallest tree in existence. My knees



Sam Bartholomew

shook even as I was just climbing up the cargo net. What made it even scarier was the fact that Mr. Kimball was at the bottom of the swing ready to slap your legs to slow you down. The Kamikaze was definitely the best element of all.

Overall, Camp Laney was an awesome experience for all of the seventh-graders. It was a great bonding opportunity and a chance to conquer epic ropes courses. Many boys conquered their fears on this trip, and many became better men.

Maxwell Battle



Camp Laney

A Friendly Game..... Right?

By Mauro Mastrapasqua

While I was on the bus to Laney, I heard people talking about their older brothers' experience of the camp when they went and what the teachers had told them about it. A frequent subject brought up was Battle Ball. In order to learn more about Mr. Kimball's fabled 94 mph Battle Ball throw, I interviewed



Mr. Cooper gets everyone ready for battleball.

the seventh graders what their thoughts were on Max Speer's clutch jailbreak shot at the basketball goal. It was described as "unforgettable," having a "great arch," "awesome," "majestic," and "chaotic." Anyway, I digress. The point is, his team stormed the court wildly after the shot was made, and I don't even think the shot touched the rim!

Now that Mr. Kimball has had his fair share of the spotlight, let's divert our attention to Mr. Simpson. The

junior school dean had an average guess of a 64 mph throw. He didn't have the same level of speed, but he threw more often which made him a good asset to a team. However, most students I asked stated that Mr. Kimball would be better than Mr. Simpson to have as a teammate.

I won't state my opinion on this because both of them could have me on the ground in 2 seconds if they knew I was

rooting for the other.

I would like to thank the following interviewees: Zach Thomas, Matthew Milam, Joseph Bellardo, Peyton Green, Bo Wilbanks, and Michael Spellman.



my fellow seventh graders just how fast he could throw it. The average answer I found was 82 mph. I also surveyed the same seventh graders on which seventh grader they thought had the fastest arm. The choice was divided between Dan Gaw and Mark Pyburn. Though both Dan and Mark had a fast shot, it was clear that nobody could attempt to compare themselves to the almighty Mr. Kimball. He would seldom throw the ball (probably to spare his victims too much pain), but when he did, everyone in the gym knew it!

The rules of Battle Ball clearly state that whenever a team makes a shot in their opponent's goal, they receive a jailbreak. After the game, I also asked



Ashton Terrell is the last man standing.



Camp Laney

The Battle of the Boats

By Scott Wallace

It was the last day of the trip to Camp Laney. Everyone ate a big breakfast to prepare for the day. The Class of 2021 gathered excitedly around the extinguished fire pit to listen to the rules for the challenge. Each cabin had to work together to build a makeshift



Breckenridge Curnutte leads the pack.

boat. The materials were two sheets of cardboard, an enormous amount of plastic wrap, a full roll of duct tape, and a sharpie. The crew was allowed just over an hour to build their boat and have it and ready to cross the treacherous river in a relay race!

When the guide finished going over the rules, assigned cabin mates ran for the supplies. The campers worked hard for an hour to give themselves the best chance at victory.

It was time. The cabin members brought their boats to the river while singing chants such as "Teenage Mutant Savage Turtles" and the National Anthem. The river was wider than most expected. Faced with crossing what had previously seemed to be a pleasant body of water, the river now seemed to be as big and menacing as the Mississippi



Excited boatmen head for the water!

River. The river brought fear to the campers' eyes and a load of intimidation.

The boys chosen to go first nervously strapped on their life vests and clutched their oars. It felt like a lifetime as they waited for a signal for the race to begin.

The guide explained the rules, yelled, "Go!", and the race began. The cabin mates pushed out their boats and had the lightest people be the first to voyage to the other side and back. The theory was that if the boat couldn't make it across with the lightest inhabitants, it surely wouldn't make it with the heavier ones! Suddenly, those large breakfasts seemed to be a possible impediment....

Initially, all the boats moved at a steady pace. They were almost neck and neck for the first thirty seconds or so, but Cabin 10 eventually pulled ahead, and their boat was the first to make it back. With most boats struggling to stay afloat, Cabins 10 and 11 shot to the top of the leaderboard. At this point, the cheers from the campers were so loud that a single person's voice was barely audible.

When Cabin 10 was about halfway through its second round of racers, the amount of weight distributed to the back was simply too much for the two-person carrier to remain upright. The initial leader of the race, Cabin 10's

"Spider," was disqualified for the amount of boat submerged in the water. With Cabin 11's very slow but steady pace, it prevailed by successfully ferrying four people across and back safely.

However, controversy ensued. Cabin 10 argued that the third and fourth boys on Cabin 11's carrier did not, in fact, go all the way across the river. Alas, their argument fell upon deaf ears as Mr. Kimball, Mr. Anderson and Mr. Cooper maintained their decision and officially awarded the victory to Cabin 11.

Though there is no trophy to hoist in victory for this particular triumph, there are bragging rights, and Cabin 11 made the most of them. They boasted about their win constantly during the entire bus trip home from Camp Laney. For everyone involved, this was an experience that will be etched in their memories throughout their MBA careers.



Will Brownie and Sam Bartholomew

Camp Laney

The Moosilauke Man

By Tripp Chamblin

While the 7th graders sat around the campfire during our Laney experience, IPS teacher Mr. Gillespie told a terrifying story for which he is truly famous. Mr. Gillespie taught at Cardigan Mountain School in New Hampshire where he would tell stories of a mysterious mountain man. His published book, *The Moosilauke Man*, is the product of all the stories he told his students, and he brought the enthralling legend to our class late at night on the mountain.

Mr. Gillespie's story begins with a European prince who crashed



Man lived. Out on that mountain, Mr. Gillespie saw something he would never forget, something evil, terrifying, inhuman. The Moosilauke Man chased Mr. Gillespie all the way home, grabbing at him with broken, nailed, and knobbly fingers. Mr. Gillespie learned that day the Moosilauke Man was more than a legend; he was something real. After his living nightmare, Mr. Gillespie noticed his dog was no longer at his

cooing at the window, exactly as Mr. Gillespie had heard it in the mountains all those years ago. Petrified, he tried to tell Oliver to stay away, but Oliver slowly moved to the window. Instantly, Mr. Gillespie heard the shattering of glass and the screaming of his friend. The police came and found a smashed window, but nobody ever saw Oliver again.

The story ends with the the Moosilauke Man following Mr. Gillespie to college, resulting in the death of another roommate. It is soon apparent to everyone in the audience that the Moosilauke Man has haunted Mr. Gillespie his whole life, targeting everyone that he has contact with. As the fire crackles, it soon dawns on everyone at the campfire, that we all know Mr. Gillespie and are part of his life. He then turns and apologizes to all the Camp Laney campers and ends the story with this warning: If you ever hear a scratching or a soft cooing, "Run," Mr. Gillespie told us, "just run."

Thanks, Mr. Gillespie, for a truly entertaining and scary story to end our last night at Camp Laney.



while driving through Moosilauke Mountain, near where Mr. Gillespie lived. The prince's chauffeur died on impact and was identified, but no one ever found the prince's body. Many think he suffered brain damage and became a reclusive mountain man.

Mr. Gillespie dared to go into the woods where this Moosilauke

side. However, upon returning home he found an important clue to his pet's fate. The dog's collar was hung neatly on the doghouse. After this close call, Mr. Gillespie's family moved to Virginia, where he attended a boarding school.

At the boarding school, Mr. Gillespie became friends with his roommate Oliver. One night, the two heard a scratching noise and a soft

Camp Laney



Mrs. Overton and Will Montana



Lee Loving



James Kinard



Look, Coach Anderson, our hands are clean. May we eat now?



Quinn Kunath and Mr. Simpson

Camp Laney



Will Brownie



Clay Crews



Will Brown



Thomas Peterson



Welcome to the Hill

New 8th Grade Students Q&A

By Camden Slinger

The Class of 2020 has three new members, so we at the *Top of the Hill* thought it would be a good idea to ask them some questions and introduce them to the Junior School. I asked the following questions of each student.

Questions:

What is your favorite thing about MBA as of now?

What sport/elective are you most looking forward to or have already participated in?

What did you least expect MBA to have?

If you could do one thing to make MBA better, what would it be?



Brycen Brown

Brycen's Responses

1. My favorite thing is probably cookies during break.
2. I am most looking forward to playing soccer.
3. I least expected there to be a tunnel under the lunchroom and the library.
4. If I could do one thing, I would give each student more locker room space.



Andrew Ferris

Andrew's Responses

1. My favorite thing is the food during lunch.
2. I am most looking forward to bowling.
3. I did not expect MBA to have a junior school newspaper.
4. If I could do one thing, I would change it so MBA did not hand out demerits.



Colby Taylor

Colby's Responses

1. I really like all my nice classmates.
2. I had a lot of fun playing football for MBA.
3. I was surprised when I learned MBA has a PL list.
4. I wish MBA would add girls!

Welcome to the Hill



Dr. Tom Cirillo
Latin (8)



Mr. Pat Killian
Latin (8)



Mr. Matt Soleiman
Algebra I



Ms. Erin Valentine
Art

Advisory Officers 2015-2016

Eighth Grade

Mr. Anderson: Jordan Turks, David Roach, Will Mader, Michael Hoffman
 Mr. Brown: William Sullivan, Jack Clarke, Quinn Trabue, Andrew Ferris
 Dr. Cirillo: Jack Larish, Erick Saul, William Roberts, McGavock Cooper
 Ms. Ellery: Brennan Minkoff, Clayton Malone, Tripper Capps, Grayson Adams
 Mr. Killian: Jack McKennon, Will Crawford, Will McEvoy, Davis Blankenship
 Mr. Kimball: Robbie Barnes, Thomas Zeuthen, Clay Overholt, Graham Holzapfel
 Mr. McMurray: Turner Stevens, Ike Cravens, Peter Minkoff, Walker Cain
 Mr. Russ: Campbell Garber, Dudley Harmer, Sims Lance, Brycen Brown
 Mr. Patrick Simpson: Richard Cummins, Peter Hall, Kiran Peterson, Patrick Powell
 Mr. Spiegl: Matthew Hawkins, Eric Russ, Benjamin Sensing, Harrison Holman, Roy Claverie

Seventh Grade

Mr. Cooper: Clay Crews, Will Rogers, Tripp Chamblin
 Dr. Creamer: Andrew Bulgarino, Jake Steigelfest, Witt Grana, Luke Morad
 Mr. Euverard: Matthew Fox, Patrick Wilk, William Clark, Swope Fleming
 Mr. Gillespie: Ramsay Cole, Eli Fails, Drew Wilson, Stokes Meyers
 Mrs. Overton: Mauro Mastrapasqua, Patrick Pergande, Colin Tang, Lucas Cashwell
 Mrs. Roberts: Stanford Thombs, Luke Mryncza, Ashton Terrell, Trent Lamar
 Mr. Russell: Jed Neal, Zach Ricciardelli, Wyatt Bettis, Sam Meacham
 Mr. Sawyer: Colin Smith, Clay Crawford, Dan Gaw, Joseph Robertson
 Mr. Wims: Thomas McRae, Kyle Tavi, Scott Wallace, Ian Bernatavitz



2015 Mayoral Recap

By Aden Barton

This mayoral election was like none before it. An unprecedented seven candidates vied for mayor following Karl Dean's step down from office. Bill Freeman, Megan Barry, David Fox, Howard Gentry, Charles Robert Bone, Jeremy Kane and Linda Eskind Rebrovick all sought



managed to win her Democratic base which frankly outnumbered Fox's Republican base. Barry also

election occurred because Fox's slur campaign backfired on him. Fox tried to degrade Barry's image by painting her an atheist, but once it became obvious that Barry wasn't an atheist, it made Fox look bad. Fox appeared as someone trying to degrade Barry without any factual basis and was discredited in the process. Unlike Fox's insults, Barry's insults actually succeeded in making the opposition look bad. Barry made Fox look like a rich hedge-fund manager who was out of touch with the voters. For example, my mom made her decision because she thought that Fox's crudeness made Barry look like the better choice. To conclude, Barry won the mayoral election because of her Democratic base and Fox's mudslinging backfiring.



to become the next mayor of Nashville. Because the number of people running was so high, a runoff between the two most voted for candidates was staged. (<http://www.tennessean.com/>) Barry and Fox emerged from the seven and competed head-to-head for the prestigious position. This campaign was known for its intense mudslinging between the two candidates and was even recognized by *New York Times* as being a very dirty election. In the end, Megan Barry won and is now serving as Mayor of Nashville; but how did she win? As the *Tennessean* says, Megan Barry

managed to get many African-American voters on her side, playing a significant role in her victory. (28 percent of Nashville's population is African-American). Megan's Democratic image let her almost sweep the more liberal parts of town. For example, she won 90 percent of North Nashville Precinct Votes, and she won many votes from areas near Belmont and 12 South. The second reason Megan Barry won the mayoral



Megan Barry greets her supporters after winning the run-off election against David Fox.



Road to the White House



By John Raulston Graham

The presidential race is starting to heat up after the initial debates. There is a huge Republican field, but basically a two person race on the Democratic side. Two looming questions on the Democratic side are Will Vice-President Joe Biden enter the race? and Will Hilary Clinton's baggage from her time as Secretary of State hurt her chances at the nomination? The Republican side has already had some drop-outs, but the field needs to narrow much more. Another trend to notice on the Republican side is that three Washington outsiders hold the top spots in the polls.

To truly understand the characteristics our next President needs to possess, we can use the Constitution as our guide.

The Constitution says:

Article II. Section 1.

No person except a natural born Citizen, or a Citizen of the United States, at the time of the Adoption of this Constitution, shall be eligible to the Office of President: neither shall any person be eligible to that Office who shall not have attained the Age of thirty five Years, and been a Resident within the United States.

The Constitution also mentions what we expect the President to do.

Article II. Section 2.

The President shall be Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy of the United States, and of the Militia of the several States, when called into the actual Service of the United States; he may require the Opinion, in writing, of the principal Officer in each of the executive Departments, upon any Subject relating to the Duties of their respective Officers, and shall have Power to grant Reprieves and Pardons for Offences against the United States, except in Cases of Impeachment.

The Candidates

I would like to highlight the leading candidates on both sides of the aisle. First, here are the top three Republican candidates according to the Real Clear Politics Average out of the field of 14. The arrow indicates whether he or she is trending up or down.



Donald Trump- 23.2%

Donald J. Trump was born in Queens, New York, in 1946. Trump was sent to the New York Military Academy at age thirteen. He did well at the academy and was an excellent athlete. Trump started at Fordham University. However, he transferred to University of Pennsylvania. There he attended the Wharton School of Finance, before he then took over his father's real-estate business. Over the years Trump bought different businesses. He eventually built a huge empire worth almost \$2 billion. Over the last 20 years, Trump has been slowly losing wealth. Trump has had no prior political experience. His blunt nature and the fact that he is an outsider have made him an attractive candidate so far. However, he has been slipping in the polls after the recent debate.



Ben Carson- 17.2%

Dr. Ben Solomon Carson was born in 1951 in Detroit, where he grew up in the inner-city. His mother,

Continued on page 13

Continued from page 12

although she was uneducated, encouraged her sons to work as hard as they could in school. Carson struggled in school despite the encouragement from his mother. He also developed a terrible temper. His mother even though she had very little education helped Carson to get his grades back on track. After some science teachers mentored Carson, he graduated with honors from his high school. Carson worked a summer job and received a scholarship so that he could attend Yale. He graduated with a degree in psychology and then went to Michigan for medical school. A surgeon, Carson has separated conjoined twins and adult conjoined twins. He, like Trump and Fiorina, is an outsider in the top tier of candidates.



Carly Fiorina- 10.4%

Carlton Sneed Fiorina was born in Austin, Texas in 1954. Fiorina began law school at UCLA; however, after one year she decided that she wanted to quit and became a management trainee at AT&T. She earned a MBA from the University of Maryland and graduated from the Sloan School of Management at MIT. By the time she was 40 years old, she had climbed the ladder to the head of North American sales. AT&T decided to spin off part of their company and call it Lucent. Fiorina was named President of Lucent's Global Service Provider. The offering of Lucent on the market was hugely successful. Hewlett-Packard noticed Fiorina's work and offered her their CEO position. Fiorina, another outsider, is trending upwards after a wonderful debate performance.

Now, here are the two significant candidates on the Democratic side to date.



Hillary Clinton- 41.6%

Hillary Rodham Clinton was born in 1946 in Chicago, Illinois. She was raised in Park Ridge, Illinois, fifteen miles outside Chicago. Clinton campaigned for Barry Goldwater in 1964. After hearing a speech by Martin Luther King, Jr. in 1968, she became a Democrat. Clinton went to Wellesley College, and continued her education at Yale Law School. She was on the impeachment inquiry staff in 1974. Hillary Rodham married Bill Clinton in 1975. Hillary Clinton campaigned for Jimmy Carter 1976. She was extremely active in her husband's campaign in 1992. He appointed her to the Task Force on National Health Care. The council created a plan that nothing would ever come of. After her husband's term as President ended, she decided that she would run for the New York Senate seat. She won and became the first First Lady to win a federal office. In 2009, Barack Obama appointed Hillary Clinton as his Secretary of State, and she had a controversial tenure in that position. Clinton has been trending downward as multiple scandals are hurting her poll numbers.



Bernie Sanders- 25.2%

Bernie Sanders was born in Brooklyn, New York in 1941. His parents were both Polish immigrants. After attending Madison High School in Brooklyn, he spent a year at Brooklyn College. However, he then transferred to University of Chicago, where he got involved with the Civil Rights movement. Sanders lived in Israel before eventually landing in Burlington, Vermont. He ran for many different public offices under the Liberty Union Party's ticket, but no campaign was successful. Finally in 1981, he won the mayoral election in Burlington. Then in 1990, Sanders ran for the House of Representatives and won, despite his untidy appearance. Sanders then looked to the Senate. He somehow beat the big businessman Richard Tarrant, who spent \$7 million on the election. Sanders jumped into the spotlight after an eight hour filibuster against tax cuts for the wealthy. Sanders has been benefiting from the numerous scandals of Hillary Clinton. Sanders describes himself as a Democratic-Socialist.

Sources: www.biography.com, *Real Clear Politics*

Syrian Refugee Crisis

By Marcus Le

The start of the civil war of Syria caused people to flee to countries, such as Bulgaria, Sweden, Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq, and Turkey, while some have taken refuge in their own country. There has been an estimate of 9 million people fleeing from their homes since the breakout of the civil war. Over 3 million have fled to Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, and Iraq. 6.5 million may have stayed in Syria. The European Union has aided over 2 billion Europeans, half of the aid for the Syrians. The rest is covered by the United States, Canada, and other countries. Bulgaria was hit by a big



Syrian refugees take part in a demonstration at the Jordan's border.

619,000 people. Approximately 80 percent of Syrian refugees in Jordan live in northern urban areas, while the remaining 20 percent live in the Za'atari, Marjeeb al-Fahood, Cyber City and Al-Azraq camps. The government never officially recognized these refugees until 2012 when they saw one-thousand people

crossing the border at once.

Ever since the camps were set up, there have been rioting and extreme weather. Lebanon was hit by over one

million Syrians. Unlike Bulgaria, Sweden and Jordan refuse to set up camps because the government is worried about overflowing from Syria. Most of the remaining people have been living in either rented homes or people are hosting them. Iraq, who sent 1 million refugees to Syria in the early 2000s, are now receiving 1 million back. The Islamic State of Iraq and Lebanon took over the Iraqi city Mosul, causing yet another crisis. Turkey has spent over 1.6 billion euros on the Syrian refugees, forcing them to seek international monetary aid. Thirty percent of the refugees are now currently on the Syrian-Turkey border. The scale of the people's flight has been unprecedented, and new developments are coming faster than ever.

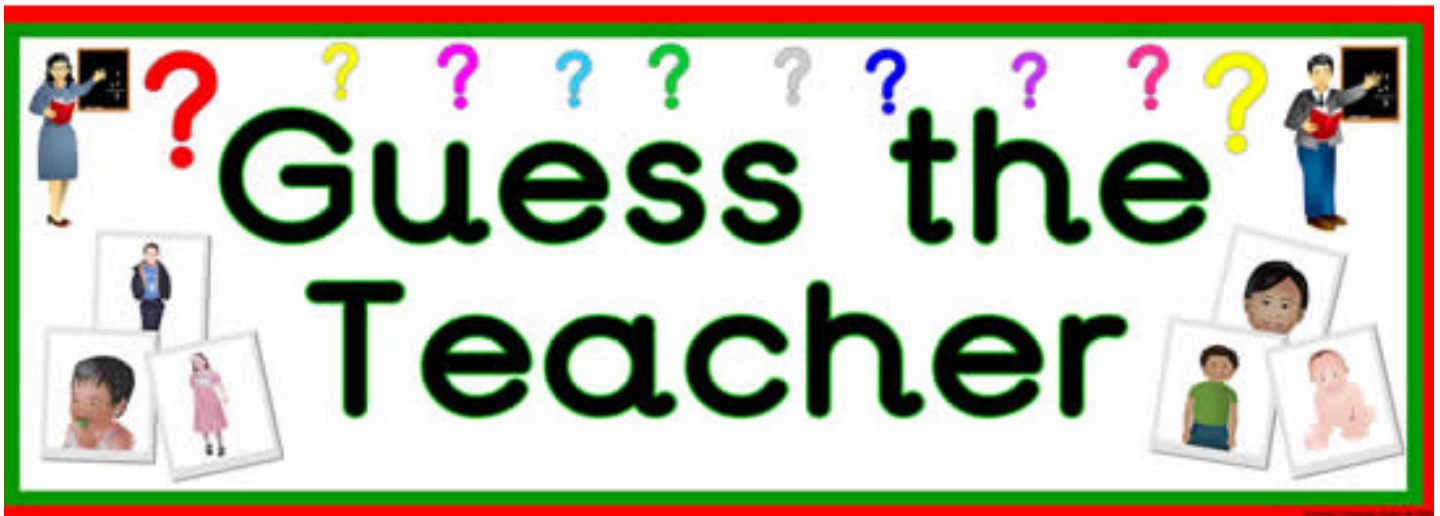
The MPC website is aiming to give a balance of compressed news to the media, policymakers and politicians, migration stakeholders, and the academic community, with the facts needed to understand the course of events and make informed judgments. It will be improved and updated on a weekly basis. The website will gather all the relevant data (statistics, graphs, maps, legislations, documents from governments and other stakeholders, etc.). This crisis is causing multiple countries to go bankrupt and forcing many people to die of starvation, disease, and rioting. It is a situation that needs help.



Refugees at the border in Turkey

wave of Syrian refugees, but being a very poor country, it was hardly able to aid the Syrians. Camps were getting overcrowded and hurting their economy. In contrast, Sweden was the biggest host for the Syrian refugees, sheltering over 30,000 people and giving them permanent residency. In addition, this effort is actually helping their economy. Meanwhile, Jordan has registered

million Syrians. Unlike Bulgaria, Sweden and Jordan refuse to set up camps because the government is worried about overflowing from Syria. Most of the remaining people have been living in either rented homes or people are hosting them. Iraq, who sent 1 million refugees to Syria in the early 2000s, are now receiving 1 million back. The Islamic State of Iraq and Lebanon



By Patrick Powell

1. This teacher was coached by Coach Wims.
2. This teacher's nickname is Eagle Eye for his ability to spot shirt tails and people needing haircuts.
3. He played baseball at the University of Tennessee (UT) and is in his 13th year at MBA.



1. This teacher once had a grizzly bear invade her camp in the Teton Mountains.
2. This teacher was a three-sport athlete in high school.
3. This teacher is currently in her tenth year teaching at MBA, and she once had her Yankees tickets flown from Nashville to LaGuardia Airport in time for the game.

Answers at the bottom of page 18

The Doctors are In!

Meet Dr. Love and Dr. More Love

Dr. Love and Dr. More Love,

I have a problem. You see, I have two girlfriends, and they both want to meet my parents next time we go on a date. I can't have my parents find out that I'm dating two girls at the same time. Also I don't want the girls finding out about each other. What should I do?

Thanks,
Desperate 8th
Grader

Dear Desperate 8th
Grader,

First of all,
congratulations on
being a serious player.

Two girlfriends, that's

impressive. Second, you need some help. You are going to have to mislead your parents and girlfriends for this plan to work. The girlfriends need to think that the plans have been cancelled for some reason, sickness or parents are not ready to meet them, etc. Your parents need to think the opposite that the girlfriends are sick or not willing to meet. Whatever you do, do not let them have contact in any way. No texting, calling, or meeting. If they meet, they will talk, as girls do, and figure out the whole entire plan, and that you were not being honest with them. If they find out that you lied, both girlfriends will break up with you, and your own parents will not trust you anymore. This is the risk you must be willing to take for love. Having two girlfriends is always going to be difficult to maintain, but if you are a serious player, like yourself, you can handle it. You can always come back for more help if needed, I will be here.

Sincerely, *Dr. Love*

Dear Desperate 8th Grader,

This is a pretty bad problem you have gotten yourself into. What I think you should do is get one parent to meet one girlfriend and one parent to meet your other girlfriend. Now your parents will have no idea that you are dating two girls. This approach temporarily solves your problem, but eventually your parents will find out. What you need to do is dump both of the girls. I know you're thinking why should I dump both girls? Well, really, I'm more of a single type of a guy. Really, you should never get a girlfriend because that makes all the other girls avoid you. Being single opens you up to a whole new range of possibilities. Girls will be all over you once you go back to being single. You always want to be single and on the move. Never get bogged down to one girl. Obviously you're a pretty slick guy. Two girlfriends at once is impressive. But you could be using those skills of yours to get even more girls than two. Ever need any more brilliant advice, just ask.

Yours Truly, *Dr. More Love*



Jake Stumb and Turner Stevens are Dr. Love and Dr. More Love.

Avengers: Age of Ultron

By Frank J. Perazzini

"You are all puppets, tangled up in strings!" Ok, so not strings per se, but certainly tangled up in a lackluster plot that is a watered down version of the Marvel comic strip, *The Avengers*. The only redeeming quality is that you didn't need to watch any of the previous movies to figure out what is going to happen. In fact, it's so predictable; you sit there, eating yet another tub of popcorn waiting for the obvious to unfold. If you dig the colors green and black, then you're in luck as the Hulk and The Black Widow are tearing through the scenes, and the age-old story of good versus evil unfolds with cinematic flair.

PLOT: In order to save the world from complete destruction, Nick Fury of S.H.I.E.L.D. gathers his team of avengers including Iron Man, The



Hulk, Black Widow, Captain America, Thor, Hawkeye, The Scarlet Witch and her twin brother, Quicksilver. Together they must stop Ultron and the army he has assembled from causing total and utter mass devastation. That is, of course, if they don't destroy each other in the process. Like any "normal" family, the internal workings put a human face on clearly inhuman beings

as Captain America and Thor team up against weaker "brother" Iron man. Joss Whedon has created a world where these larger-than-life characters exist without sacrificing one for the other. Some of the most exciting elements come from the battle between the assembled Avenger team as each superhero must restrain his or her own egos and eccentricities. Much of the fun in the first half comes from the tension brewing within the inner circle. However, it is hard not to single out The Hulk as one of the most exciting characters in the Marvel Universe. One of three actors to play him, Mark Ruffalo is especially fantastic as the conflicted Bruce Banner. While he is brought on board strictly for his scientific knowledge, he soon becomes their secret weapon. The best is always watching The Hulk go "SMASH!" and destroy everything, likened to your awkward older brother smashing into and breaking everything in his path.

In conclusion, *The Avengers* is an action packed film, as you can tell from Ultron's cryptic phrase, "There really are no strings on me."

Congratulations to Camden Slinger for his role as Vardaman in As I Lay Dying



Camden is the first junior school student to be cast in a high school competition one act play.



Destiny: The Taken King, a Question of Quality

By Aaron White



The year two expansion pack has finally come out for *Destiny*, my favorite Xbox One game. *The Taken King* adds in a ton of new features, such as new subclasses, which are different sets of abilities within one class. Also, *The Taken King* adds in a whole new storyline about the father of a god you killed in year one of *Destiny*. Most *Destiny* players have been waiting for *Destiny: The Taken King*, but many were disappointed when it came out.

The Taken King gave and took away many features. For instance, all the year one weapons have been nerfed, or dropped in damage. The same thing happened to the armor. Also, Bungie made year two players pay the two previous expansion packs, as well as *The Taken King*. Many people did not like they had to pay for the two expansion

packs they already had. One player of *Destiny: The Taken King* said on Kotaku.com, "Is this even legal? Say you buy a couch for 100[dollars]. After a year the company you bought it from comes to your door and asks you forty dollars extra for the couch and if you buy it you get a nice pillow. You say that you won't pay. They saw your couch in half and take one half with them... That's how I feel about [*The Taken King*] right now." I sense this comment represents quite a large group.

Although some people do not like *The Taken King*, the update had many positive aspects to it as well. One such aspect is the numerous bug fixes and gameplay updates. Also, the player has two levels: his light level and player level. The player level goes up with experience. The light level is affected by

the attack and defense of the player's armor and weapons, artifacts, and ghosts. A ghost is a little machine made by the traveler, the patron of the last city on Earth, in its dying breath.

This little machine is your personal hacker, companion, database, and jokester. Another controversial feature is the removal of Peter Dinklage as the ghost's voice. Bungie put in Nolan North in Dinklage's stead. I personally think North is funnier, but it is odd getting used to hearing his voice instead of Peter Dinklage's.

Overall, despite all the disadvantages of buying *Destiny: The Taken King*, such as the extra pay for the other expansion packs, I believe that *The Taken King* was a positive change. I would rate *The Taken King* eight out of ten ghosts because of the small downfalls, which are overtaken by the numerous positive changes of *Destiny: The Taken King*.

TOH Meetings are every Tuesday in M21!



WRITE
FOR
US

Answers for "Guess the Teacher" from page 15 : Mike Anderson and Cherie Roberts

Happy 30th Anniversary, Super Mario!

By Matthew Miller

We have all seen the gaming icon. What makes him stand out? His blue over-alls? His signature red hat? Or maybe it's his luxurious mustache? The answer is his games. Mario's games have given happiness to people around the globe, and they have been so successful Super Mario has been in games for thirty years!

It all started in September 13, 1985. *Super Mario Brothers*, on the Nintendo Entertainment System, hit the store shelves and it became a breakout success because of its new revolutionary game-play. It also sold more than forty million copies. *Super Mario Brothers* changed the video-game industry from pixelated e-sports to full



adventures. Since *Super Mario Brothers*, thirty years later, Mario has appeared in seventeen other mainline games, which have all been wildly popular.

To celebrate the anniversary, Nintendo has created *Super Mario Maker*, a game on the Wii U where you can make your own Mario levels. The power of creation is in now your hands. The game celebrates four Mario games, *Super Mario Bros*, *Super Mario Bros 3*, *Super Mario World*, and *Super Mario Bros. U*. You are able to design your levels and upload them for other players to see. You are also able to play amazing creative levels from all around the world. The game allows you to insert

elements that you could have never imagined in a Mario game, such as custom sound effects, Beetle Helmets, and the ability to use amiibo to play as other characters such as *Pac Man* or *Sonic*.

When *Mario* first started, the game was in the hands of the designers and visionaries. Shigeru Miyamoto, the creator of *Mario*, had to work with his team to carefully plan out every level. Now, *Super Mario Maker* gives you the chance to build and create the levels of your dreams, just as the original team did. *Mario* has been an amazing franchise that has lasted thirty years. He has given joy, laughter, and fun times to millions of people. So as we think about the past awesome thirty years, we should also think about Mario's amazing future!

FIFA 16

By Andrew Bulgarino

Electronic Arts (EA) has added multiple innovations to *FIFA 16*. The gameplay is smoother, and the general atmosphere of the game gives the player a realistic feeling of awe. Many things have been added in manager mode, the most notable thing being the ability to train your players. You just pick a drill and which player you want to train; then, you either simulate the drill or do the drill manually. Also, they added pre-season tournaments to help you get to know your team before the season begins. Another innovation is the Ultimate Team Draft, where you draft a team of random players and compete against other players online. It has been the most popular thing in *FIFA 16*. I myself have not played the Draft mode



much, but it is really fun. It is hard, though, especially if you don't have a great internet connection. There are some really good FIFA players online, which is part of the reason why I stick with manager mode. However, you always do get a decent team, but it seems there is always someone who has a better team.

One of the biggest options in *FIFA 16* is the women's World Cup. They added a mode where you can play as any of the countries in the 2015 Women's World Cup. This mode is

quite a lot of fun, for it is different playing with women instead of men. It is a huge FIFA milestone; it is the first *FIFA* videogame to ever have the option to play as a women's team.

The only complaint that *FIFA 16* has had is about the difficulty of the computer. Many people say that it is way harder than *FIFA 15*. It feels like the difficulty of the professional on *FIFA 16* is the same as the difficulty of the world class level on *FIFA 15*. It seems that players cannot just simply run by their opponents, as it was in *FIFA 15*. Instead, they must actually play possession and create chances.

Overall, I would say that *FIFA 16* is worth the purchase. It is definitely better than *FIFA 15*, although it is similar. If you did enjoy *FIFA 15*, you should buy *FIFA 16*.

Until Dawn: A Game Where Your Choice Really Matters

By Armaan Sodhi

Until Dawn is a fascinating new game that has revolutionized the gaming industry. The plot line (without spoilers) is about a handful of teenagers who return to their yearly winter getaway where their friend died the previous year. The calm winter getaway soon became a terrifying experience when people started disappearing and even dying. The game was originally supposed to be only a demonstrative program and was never supposed to be released to the public. However, the developers fell in love with the game and began gathering a full-fledged game.

The game was supposed to show off the features of a new game development engine that was unprofessionally lost after the creation of the game. Although the game developers have not officially said that they lost the program, they have said a second game would be hard to make, and this information was leaked by a trustworthy source. This means it may be years before we get a game that even comes close to having the graphics and amount of detail in *Until Dawn*, for it is simply impossible to code a game that large.



The in-game graphics are beyond anything we have ever seen in the gaming community. The amazing game has 16 different endings, featuring one with all the characters living, which has not been officially accomplished. That means no one has recorded or witnessed anyone finished the game with all of their characters still living.

At some points in the game, a recreation of actor Peter Stormier (don't ask why, nobody knows...) begins a therapy session with you the person playing the game. Peter

Stormier proceeds to ask you about your fears. For example, he may ask you what you fear more, clowns or zombies. Your answer to this question changes the story by making the villain either a clown or zombie. There is so much attention to detail in this game that you can even start arguments between the characters. These fun and seemingly harmless fights actually alter the plot line, making characters run a little bit slower for people they dislike when that character is in trouble. This change of pace in the running is seemingly impossible to tell from watching them one after another, but I have seen them

side by side and can tell you first hand, this rumor is true. People do run slower for players they dislike. This proven fact now gives insight into the true level of detail put into this creepy horror game. The atmosphere is eerie and does an amazing job of making us feel as if we are right there with the characters. I would rate this game 14 out of 20 clowns (or zombies) because of the graphics, characters, atmosphere, choice complexity, and the level of detail put into this game.



The Force Begins Anew

By Thomas Peterson

The long awaited seventh installment in the *Star Wars* series arrives in theaters on December 15, 2015. *Star Wars VII: The Force Awakens* is the first installment of the *Star Wars* series after Disney Studios acquired LucasFilm in 2012. There are two more installments of the series to follow.

The Force Awakens is set 30 years after the Battle of Endor and the events shown in *Return of the Jedi*. Early reports say that the movie plot will be sparked by the discovery of Luke Skywalker's hand and a light saber. Although George Lucas developed scripts for the three new *Star Wars* movies before he sold the franchise to Disney, it is reported that Disney



scrapped Lucas' script for *The Force Awakens* and wrote a new story.

Fans have been told that Harrison Ford (Han Solo), Carrie Fisher (Princess Leia) and Mark Hamill (Luke Skywalker) will make appearances in the movie, but the extent of their roles is still not completely clear. Chewbacca, R2D2 and C3PO will also be back. There will be lots of new characters too – Rey, a scavenger who lives in a ship graveyard; Finn, who is said to be a Stormtrooper in the opening scenes of the movie; and Poe Dameron, an X-Wing pilot who describes himself

as “the best fricken’ pilot in the galaxy.”

At the end of *Return of the Jedi*, the Death Star was space trash. Emperor Palpatine and Darth Vader were both dead, and the Empire was at a loss for leadership. In the power vacuum left behind, the various Moffs and officers struggled to fill the vacancies, and “The First Order” is rumored to be the ruling party that won that battle. The First Order is believed to be the central antagonist in *The Force Awakens*. They govern the stormtroopers and TIE Fighters, and they have a battle station called Starkiller Base. Starkiller Base is said to make the Death Star pale in comparison.

***Reports used for this article include:*

<http://www.cinemablend.com/new/Star-Wars-Episode-7-What-We-Know-So-Far-36488-p10.html>

<http://www.theatlantic.com/entertainment/archive/2015/05/star-wars-vanity-fair-the-force-awakens/392669/>

The Martian Movie Review

By Landis Hall

Ridley Scott's new film, *The Martian*, takes the classic man versus nature survival story to a whole new level. When a sandstorm causes a mission to Mars to be aborted, astronaut Mark Watney (Matt Damon) is accidentally left behind when presumed dead. Mark must now use the few supplies he has to survive long enough until NASA can send a rescue team for him. One of the most amazing things about *The*



Martian is how well Matt Damon can act when he is by himself. He provides his character with a strong will to keep going, as well as a good sense of humor. The supporting cast also does

very well in giving us characters that are interesting and well acted. Another thing that makes the film interesting is the use of a normal camera view as well as video journal tapes that Mark records throughout his story, giving the movie a found footage feel. Mark comes up with all sorts of clever comments, such as when he has to steal an MAV (Martian Ascent Vehicle) against NASA's orders and points out that he is technically the first space pirate ever. *The Martian* also

has a good soundtrack, since Mark is stuck on Mars with his commander's disco collection. The film deals heavily with the theme of somebody's always being there to help you, and that no one is alone. Director Ridley Scott said in an interview, “When you see an earthquake in Nepal and people coming to help you, you realize that. When you see any tragedy around the world and all the efforts to do something, you realize that. That's what I think the movie is about.” Finally, *The Martian* does what no other Mars movies do-- it ends up being good. Most movies set on Mars don't have an amazing track record, with recent flops being 2012's *John Carter* and 2013's *Last Days on Mars*. *The Martian* breaks that trend because it doesn't rely on the cliché of finding aliens on Mars. Instead, it deals with a more realistic and entertaining story about a stranded man whose only help is billions of miles away.

Titans Mid-Season

By Jack Smartt

The Tennessee Titans have struggled to win any games this year. Most fans can see improvement from last year because the Titans have actually been close in a few games, but they desperately need to close out a game. The Titans are young and are not used to being in tight games. Marcus Mariota has played well this season, but he has been too predictable and that has led to some interceptions. In my opinion, Mariota has thrown too many short passes and not taken as many chances down the field. Also, the offensive line has played miserably this season because of some injuries. The Titans lost their starting center for the year, and Chance Warmack has been playing with an injury for a majority of



Quarterback Marcus Mariota

the season. If the Titans can give Mariota a little more time, we could see some good plays from Mariota and the run game. Coming into the season, many thought Bishop Sankey would be the starting running back. Well, it looks like Antonio Andrews, an undrafted free agent from Western Kentucky, will be the starting running back. Despite the offensive line woes Antonio Andrews has been a solid power back. Dexter McCluster gives the Titans a different pace when he is in the backfield because of his speed and elusiveness. As for the wide receivers, Kendall Wright

believes he should be getting more targets this season. Wright has a point because the Titans have not actually been giving him the ball as often as he deserves. Wright might be the best offensive player besides Mariota, and I think the Titans need to give him the ball more. The defense this season has been okay. The run defense has been terrible, but the pass defense has been playing well. Teams have been able to take advantage of the Titans weak defensive line, and teams are double-teaming Jurrell Casey. The pass defense has improved since last year because of new secondary additions like Da'Norris Searcy and Perrish Cox. Overall, this will be a learning year for the Titans and next year the Titans may be able to turn things around.

<http://isportsweb.com/2015/08/25/tennessee-titans-marcus-mariota-love-affair-needs-to-pause/>

Twitter Beef

By Thomas McCrae

Floyd Mayweather and Ronda Rousey were both up for the best fighter award. Floyd Mayweather claimed that he has never heard of Rousey. No one knows why he said that because it she is the most famous fighter in the world besides him right now. This year ended very badly for him, because Ronda Rousey ended up winning the award. After she won, Rousey tweeted, "I wonder how Floyd feels being beat by a woman for once. I'd want to see him try to pretend not to know who I am now." In response Floyd tweets something very uneducated: "Call me when you make \$300 million in 36 minutes." Then, Rousey hits him with the digital



Ronda Rousey and Floyd Mayweather Jr.

uppercut by tweeting, "Call me when you can read a whole Dr. Seuss book." This is seen as an very unkind tweet because Floyd Mayweather is unable read, but I still give it 4 chirps for four reasons. One is that not only did she win the best fighter award; she also beat Floyd in a Twitter beef. By winning this battle and the award, she probably got a lot of sponsors and endorsements worth way more that \$300 million. Two is that when one is debating, not only does he

or she have to know his or her argument, but he or she also has to know the other person's argument, and that's exactly what she did by knowing the fact that Floyd can't read. The third reason is that it's a good thing that he lost for once. With the fact that Floyd is an undefeated fighter, the change is probably a good experience for him. The fourth reason that this tweet is good in a way is indirectly saying that it is a priority to be able to read in this society, and all people should be encouraged to learn how to. We are all blessed to go to school where reading is prominent, and we will never be ashamed or made fun of for not being able to read.

Photo cited: <http://knockoutnation.com>

SEC Football Predictions

By Jake Stumb



SEC football is going to be an interesting topic this year, and it is going to be all over ESPN. The SEC was humiliated last year when the Alabama Crimson Tide got dominated by the Ohio State Buckeyes, a Big 10 contender. The Tide was the number one seed in the playoffs and played against the Buckeyes at the number four seed. Ohio State beat Alabama 42-35 in the Sugar Bowl and went on to win the championship over Oregon. Although neither Ohio State nor Alabama is supposed to be as outstanding as last year, a couple of SEC teams are.

The Ole Miss Rebels have great potential this year to be a top contender for the BCS National Championship. The Rebels have an all-around offense with an average quarterback and running back. The defense is where the Rebels will not be beat. Ole Miss has a defense that has been unstoppable the past couple of years. This year, however, it is said to be the best they have had in a long time. The Georgia Bulldogs, another standout team, have a promising running back, Nick Chubb, who is supposed to lead Georgia to

multiple victories. The LSU Tigers also have a beast of a tailback, Leonard Fournette, who is predicted by many to win the Heisman trophy and lead LSU to a national championship. Some do not believe that the Tennessee Vols are capable of succeeding, but head coach Butch Jones, who is a great recruiter, could produce a team that is going to be hard to beat in the following seasons.

SEC football programs are starting to become unbeatable at some schools, while others are becoming less and less successful. For example, the Vanderbilt Commodores have lost a torrential amount of skill and experience ever since their beloved head coach James Franklin left. Since then, Derrick Mason, a former Stanford defensive coordinator, has taken over the program and has just not been able to rebuild the team. Many think that he could be fired in coming seasons. So far this year, another team that has shown the capability to succeed has been the Arkansas Razorbacks. This team does

not have the talent and the coaching to win in the SEC. Arkansas lost to Toledo, an undeveloped and unranked program, in their second game of the season. Their coach, Bret Bielema, is on the "hot seat" and could be fired at any time this year. He has not delivered the team progress that the program expected.

There are also the average teams that are neither terrible nor are they potential contenders for the title. These teams include the Auburn Tigers, the Missouri Tigers, the Florida Gators, the South Carolina Gamecocks, the Mississippi State Bulldogs, the Kentucky Wildcats, and the Texas A&M Aggies. These teams are all around skilled teams with no standout players that could lead them to the top, even though they have shown these attributes in past seasons.

The SEC will be a conference to be reckoned with, but some believe that other conferences have what it takes to beat even the best SEC football teams in the end. The Southeastern Conference has the skill and coaching to be a dominating conference not only in the past, but in this upcoming year and many years to come.

Photosource:

<http://touchdownalabama.net/scotts-sec-picks-week-6-oct-4th/>

Grandparents Day

is

Tuesday, November 24th!

Bring your best smile and your coat and tie to welcome your grandparents to the campus.



Predators: What to Expect, and What Not to Expect

By Matthew Kaplan

The Nashville Predators had what most would call a successful season last year. Coming off two years out of the postseason, the team had a historic season in which they were the third seed in their conference. For a significant part of the year, the Predators were first in their conference. However, a late season slump resulted dropped them down two spots and arguably caused an ousting out of the playoffs.

By the time the postseason rolled around, fans were optimistic. Well, why wouldn't they be? Featuring star goalie Pekka Rinne, all-star defender Shea Weber, and

most dominant team of the 21st century: the Chicago Blackhawks. While this statement is true, I'm here to tell you that there is no excuse as to why the Predators struggled and convincingly lost to Chicago. The Predators were not prepared, experienced, or talented enough to truly make a playoff run. So what does this postseason fail mean for the Predators this season?

Nothing would suggest that the Predators would be any worse than last year, which means a solid playoff team is in store. The team has all of its good players returning, and many young players, such as Ryan Ellis and Filip Forsberg, are

only getting better. I believe that with a year under Forsberg's belt, he could reach elite status this year and truly provide the goal scoring that the Predators have been missing since anyone

can remember. Have your Stubhub app ready, because the Predators will be seeing some action in the

playoffs this season.

Now the hard part is upon us. What are things we should not expect from this year's Nashville Predators? First, don't expect a championship. In fact, I would go as far as to say that even if all of the Predators' best players play to their potential, the talent is not enough to win 16 playoff games. Secondly, the regular season will not go as well as it did last year, initially at least. The Predators should spent part of their season creating a true identity. I believe that they will find this identity and then start to perform like an elite team. Lastly, with a little more playoff experience, the Predators should be able to make it past the first round, but not much more than that.

I would predict that the Predators will make it to the second round but will lose to a team that is simply better. Regardless, this team has a lot of talent and should be fun to watch in the 2015-2016 season.

**Photo Source:*

<http://www.zimbio.com/photos/Shea+Weber/Pekka+Rinne/allas+Stars+v+Nashville+Predators/hAXdzq0yYua>



rookie phenom Filip Forsberg, what could possibly go wrong? Many fans would argue that they ran into the

MLB Recap: Those Mets!

By John Wallace

As the regular season has wrapped up and the postseason is starting, there are some things to remember. Many hot teams are emerging this season, such as the Houston Astros, Chicago Cubs, and the New York Mets. All of these teams have made the playoffs and are in the NLDS or the ALDS. Although all of the teams have a wealth of young talent, the Mets have some of the best hitters in the MLB.

The Mets are now competing in the NLDS against the Los Angeles Dodgers. The Mets are putting up their best pitching rotation of Jacob DeGrom, Noah Syndergaard, and Matt Harvey against the Dodgers' Clayton Kershaw and Zack Greinke. The Mets have players like Yoenis Cespedes and Lucas Duda in their hitting lineup. The Mets are predicted to lose the series against the Dodgers, but if the pitchers bring their best and the bats stay on fire, the Mets have a good chance advancing to the NLCS against either the Cardinals or the Cubs.



The Mets' David Wright

The Mets started the season looking rough with injuries to David Wright and Travis D'Arnaud. Then, the 13 game win streak came. The Mets pitching was amazing, and it just did not look like the Mets could lose. The first half of the season was up and down after the winning streak, and only one player, Jacob DeGrom, made the All-Star Game. Then, right before the trade deadline, the Mets traded for Yoenis Cespedes, and the Mets erased their deficit in their division against the Nationals. They eventually got their division lead to nine games. The Mets had a magic number of fourteen and erased it to zero to make the playoffs.

The second half of the season was one to remember for the Mets. I personally think that the Mets are one of the best emerging teams in the MLB. The Mets have the best pitching rotations in baseball. The Mets have great young talent with Noah Syndergaard and Jacob DeGrom. Another reason the Mets are a great team is their veteran leadership. David Wright and Juan Uribe are players that have been in the MLB a while and know how to lead a team. The Mets also have big bats. Yoenis Cespedes helped the Mets win with his big hitting games. I think the Mets have a good chance of winning a World Series in a few years.

My MLB Playoffs Predictions: the Cubs and Mets advance to the NLCS; the Royals and Blue Jays advance to the ALCS; the Cubs advance to the World Series representing the National League; the Royals advance to the World Series representing the American League; and the Cubs defeat the Royals in 6 games, winning their first World Series and over a century.

Overall, with three teams emerging as All-Star caliber level, they should be teams to watch out for in the MLB Playoffs and years to come.

**Picture Source: <http://onlineathens.com/sports/2012-11-30/source-wright-mets-strike-138m-8-year-deal>*



Editor's Note:

These students were unable to make the photo session for Advisory Officers.

L - R: Andrew Farris, Brennan Minkoff, Tripp Chamblin, and Andrew Bulgarino

Easy to Learn, Hard to Master

By Mauro Mastrapasqua

The 2015 fall crew season went very well for the junior school. The 40 members had a chance to improve their stamina, increase

scrimmages. (These scrimmages are called “regattas” in the TSSAA high school division.) Scrimmages consist of two races, the first race starting around eleven o’clock. The MBA rowers had a hard time positioning the boat at the beginning, but they had an easier time once the race began. MBA performed much better in the second scrimmage because the rowers had more experience and

on the Saturdays when they were not scrimmaging. These practices would be held on the Barge – two boats connected to each other with a wooden platform in the middle to stand on – because they had too many people for just one eight seat boat.

The crew season ended on October 3, 2015. This year’s team was the first MBA junior school crew team to ever compete in a scrimmage. The team made history and can be proud of their many accomplishments, including learning teamwork and rowing fundamentals. As Coach Calico said, “If you don’t give your all, just as

their skill, and develop a love for the sport. They had some struggles in getting a knack for the sport initially, but the team soon picked up its slack and showed the Nashville Junior Rowing Club what they were made of.

The Nashville Junior Rowers Club was the crew team’s only competition in their total of two

skill after three preceding weeks of practice.

Rowing practice was held four days a week: three days conditioning with Coach Ewing until 4:45, and one day with Coach Calico at Hamilton Creek Marina on Percy Priest Lake until 6:30. In addition to these practices, the team would have an optional practice

everyone else in the boat is, you will actually make your teammates worse.” This statement explains that if one’s rowing isn’t synchronized with the rest of the boat, the boat will stop. Therefore, if one finds himself in a boat that he is not willing to work for, he is the wrong place.



The 2015 Microbe Crew Team

Junior School Cross Country Season



By William Rogers

The junior school cross country team went undefeated this season with a 5-0 record, which also included the HVAC cross country meet. Some of their top runners this season in the championship included John Hyde, who placed second, Brycen Brown, who placed third, and Will Crawford, who placed fifth. The whole team put in a great effort,

making it possible to have several wins and finally giving the team a chance to win the HVAC. The team practiced for about twelve weeks building up to the HVAC meet. They put in amazing efforts in all of the racing events and were helped by the coaches who provided lots of encouragement and guidance. The coaches for this junior school cross country team were Coach Reynolds, Coach Bailey, Coach Russell, Coach Dougherty, and Coach Paolicchi. These coaches helped the team so much this year on their form in running, eating right, and staying in shape during the season.

One of the best courses the team ran this year was the FRA course, where they achieved an amazing victory and a great sweep.

Another course that was successful was the HVAC meet. Although the course was wet and cold course, the team was able to pull through and finally convincingly win the HVAC boys division in the varsity race. Also, the team achieved a perfect score in the JV race. With the entire team's effort, they flew through race after race, earning so many personal records for each race. One of the hardest courses for the team was the FRA course because they had to face a big hill right in the middle. Despite the difficult course, the team was not disappointed and had some great runners and great PR's. In order to win the HVAC, the team needed some great runners. In the end, everyone came through and succeeded.

**Photo Courtesy of Michael Jones Photography*



The 2015 HVAC Cross Country Champions!!

Junior School Golf

By Matt Hawkins



three players: Dudley Harmer, Brennan Minkoff, and Peter Minkoff. The B team did not have any matches, but they practiced

three days a week to improve their golf game.

The junior school golf team had a strong season filled with ups and downs. The team played in twelve matches and had a record of 7-5. The A team consisted of six eighth graders and four seventh graders. The eighth graders on the team included John Sewell, Grayson Hill, Tripper Capps, Eric Saul, Matt Hawkins, and Woodson Weathersby. The seventh graders on the team were Flynn McRae, Max Speers, Joseph Robertson, and Jack Spivey. The junior school B team had

The A team's season started off with a few bumps in the road, which led the team to a 1-2 start with a win over Christ Presbyterian Academy and losses against Harding and Ensworth. The team began to hit its stride in the following matches, beating Franklin Road Academy, Brentwood Academy, and Harding after a tough loss to them early in the season. The team followed these victories with a rough outing



Coach Kelly and Microbe Golf's Top Four

at Spencer Creek, losing to Battle Ground Academy and Lipscomb. A late season push included victories over Brentwood Academy, Harding Academy, and the University School of Nashville. Lastly, the team finished with a loss to Ensworth. At the end of the season, the top four players who would play in HVAC were ready to rise to the occasion. The all eighth grade team included Matt Hawkins, Eric Saul, John Sewell, and Woodson Weathersby. The team participated in HVAC on Monday, September 28th at Ted Rhodes Golf Course. Despite some troubles throughout everyone's round, the team played its best round of the season, including great scores from Woodson Weathersby, who shot a one over par 36, and Matt Hawkins, who shot a two over par 37. John Sewell, who shot 39, and Eric Saul, who shot 40, also contributed to the top scores which added up to a strong 112. The team came second behind Ensworth, who shot 108, and barely beat out Brentwood, who shot 114. Individually, Woodson placed second, Matt placed fourth, and John placed tenth. The team is happy with their performance, and they can all look forward to another great season in the spring.



The 2015 Junior School Golf Team

Photo is Courtesy of Michael Jones Photography

7th Grade Football

By Thomas McRae

Pre-season workouts were a success, and the coaches were aware of the immense amount of talent on the team. The first practices were all about hitting, hustle, and grit. Through the first practices, playmakers and team leaders were revealed. The list of them are Matthew Fox, a middle linebacker and fullback who is good at hitting; Stanford Thombs, a defensive end who is good at hitting and has raw talent; Foster Edwards, a middle linebacker who is good at hitting; and Colyer Haddock, a right tackle who has both leadership and experience. Other leaders include Lucien Brunetti, a wide receiver who has raw talent and speed; Maxwell Battle, a running back who has speed and talent; Patrick Wilk, safety and running back who has speed and



*The 2015 Seventh-Grade Football Team
Photo Courtesy of Michael Jones Photography*

same. MBA had the ball on the 10 because of 2 breakout runs by Matthew Fox, so they ran the 1-22 boot to Mark Pyburn. He took it on the roll out and scored. Then, the team really started playing well. Lucien Brunetti caught a 30 yard pass. Matthew Fox scored a 4 yard TD. Mark falls out of the pocket forced to scramble, but what looked like a disaster turned into mark breaking eight tackles and scoring a 60 yard TD. Finally, Patrick Wilk sealed the deal with an interception. MBA won big time!

Next, MBA faced an even bigger opponent, Mount Juliet. Playing the all-star team of a 600 kid grade was intimidating, but MBA managed a decisive victory. To start the game, Lucien Brunetti scored 4 times, 3 of which were 40 yard bombs from Mark, one of which was a scoop and go fumble recovery.

Matthew Fox was sent on a fourth down blitz and hit the running back so hard the running back did a backflip. Then, Patrick Wilk had two interceptions which resulted in a blow-out win.

The next game was against Lipscomb. This ended up being a win for MBA, but it was a close one. Then, the team played the Murfreesboro Crimson Tide. They are a travel all-star team out of Henderson County. Despite the Big Red's desire to win,

MBA got smacked. The Crimson Tide players were unbelievably big and fast. They didn't even start their first string QB! The one word to sum up the game is "rough."

MBA headed to Camp Laney the next week and then had to face BA. This was the one game that the team needed to win. MBA was so fired up, but they got behind in the first half. They came back with a good TD by Zach Thomas, and with a bit more help, the team was coming back. However, at the end of the game, the clock won. The game was a rough one that the team will be thinking about until next year. The final game of the year was against CPA. They have one of the fastest running backs you'll ever see. MBA dominated in the first half, and Patrick Wilk scored a great touchdown. The offensive line did most of the work by picking him up and carrying him five yards. Half time came and went, and CPA's running back made two great plays, which put the team on the clock. MBA made it all the way down to the 20 yard line where Thomas McRae made a diving catch that looked like a first down, but the refs disagreed. The team missed the fourth down conversion, and the game was over. I'm not one to make excuses, but there were some problems to this game. Unfortunately, the running clock worked against MBA this game. This was a rough end of the season for the team, but all of the players are looking forward to a stronger season next year.



Photo Courtesy of Mrs. Carolyn Thombs

vision; Mark Pyburn, a quarterback who has raw talent; and finally Jackson Pickett, the team manager who possessed speed, raw talent, hustle, a good work ethic, and brute strength.

The first game was against a big Farragut team, and no one believed that the MBA team would go out and do what they did. The kickoff resulted in a Big Red fumble which gave Farragut the lead. Then, MBA failed to convert a fourth down, and Farragut did the

8th Grade Football Summary

By Turner Stevens



This year the 8th grade football team ended the season with an unfortunate 3-4 record. The team was coached by Coach McMurray, Coach MacMahan, Coach McWhirter, and Coach Bernatavitz. They had a tough schedule and played against Farragut, Mt. Juliet, Lipscomb, Bordeaux, Knox Fulton, BA, and CPA. The team was talented and had depth at many positions. However, they were sometimes outweighed by the other teams, who had more size, strength, speed, and skill. The team did play well and outplayed their opponents in games

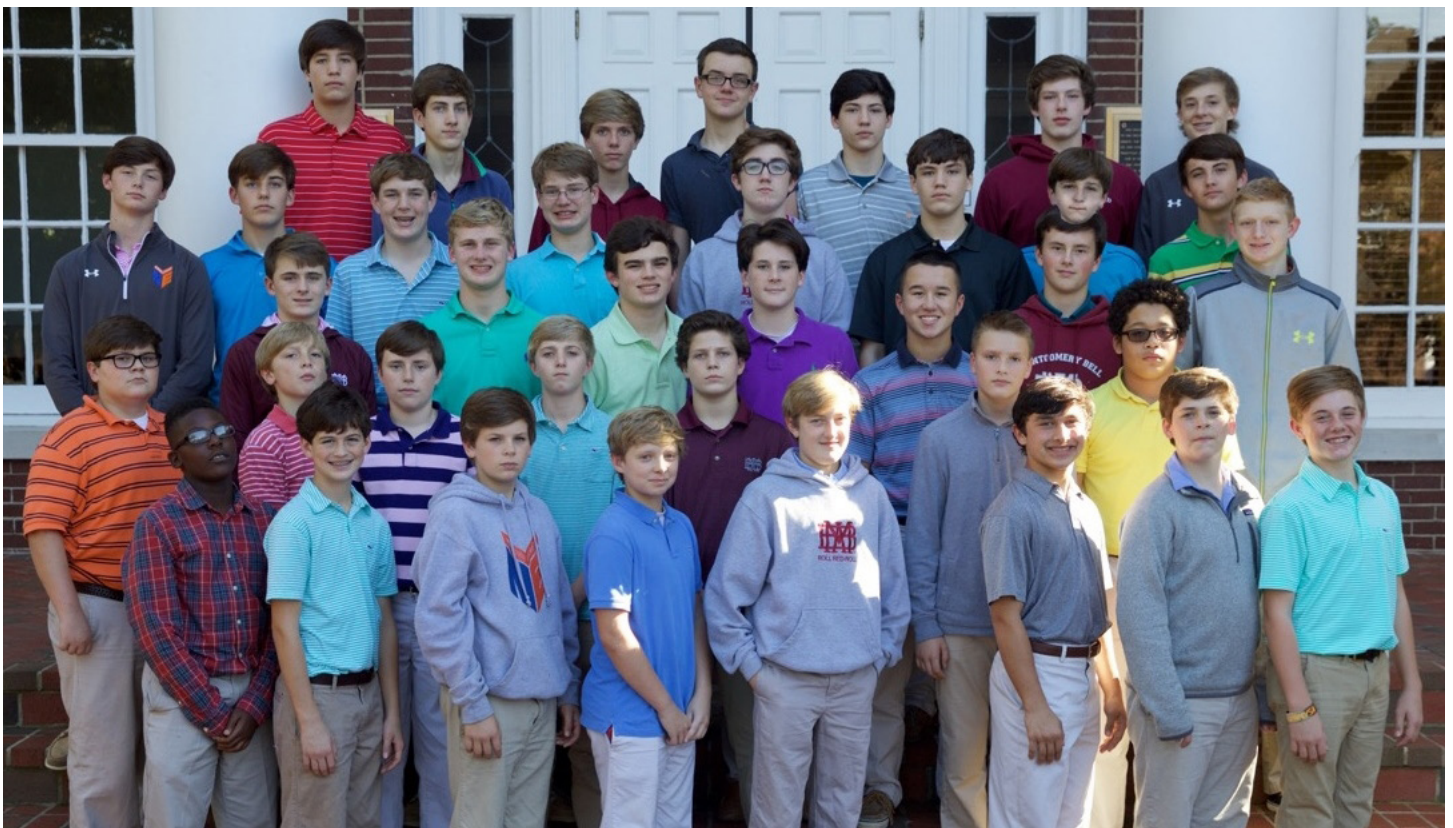
against Lipscomb, Bordeaux, and Farragut.

In the opening game against Farragut, the team came prepared and played hard, scoring three touchdowns and allowing only one. Farragut's losing their best quarterback and receivers, however, contributed to the convincing win. The final score in this game was 21-6 with MBA on top. Another win this year was against Lipscomb. In the Lipscomb game, the team scored two touchdowns and had a shutout on defense, allowing no scores. In this particular game, the offense played well but the defense played great, allowing minimal yards and no points. The final score of this game was 14-0 with MBA on top, once again. In the third and final win, the group of 8th graders went

out and beat Bordeaux. This team was as skilled and well coached as MBA. In this game, MBA played well on both sides of the ball but did nothing spectacular, scoring three touchdowns and allowing one. The score of the third and final win was 20-8. This is the highlight wrap-up of the team's season.

Expecting a better record, the 8th grade disappointingly lost four games out of seven. These games included an 8-6 loss to Mt. Juliet, a 44-7 loss to Knoxville-Fulton, a 21-0 loss to Brentwood Academy, and a 26-8 loss to Christ Presbyterian Academy. Altogether, it was a season filled with many ups and downs, not ending the way the team would have liked. Nevertheless, the team learned football skills they will benefit from for years to come.

**Photo Courtesy of Michael Jones Photography*



The 2015 Eighth-Grade Football Team

JS Tennis

By Patrick Pergande

MBA's coaches, Dr. Boyd, Coach Muller, and Coach Overton led the team through a dynamic tennis season. MBA's team came rolling into the season defeating USN 5-0, Lipscomb 5-0, and BA 5-0. The Big Red continued their winning streak and also beat CPA 5-0, Ensworth 5-0, and BGA 5-0.

Going into the HVAC tournament, MBA was a huge favorite. MBA was seeded #1 in every category. The HVAC tournament was held at Ensworth. However, after inclement weather, the match had to be moved to Belle Meade



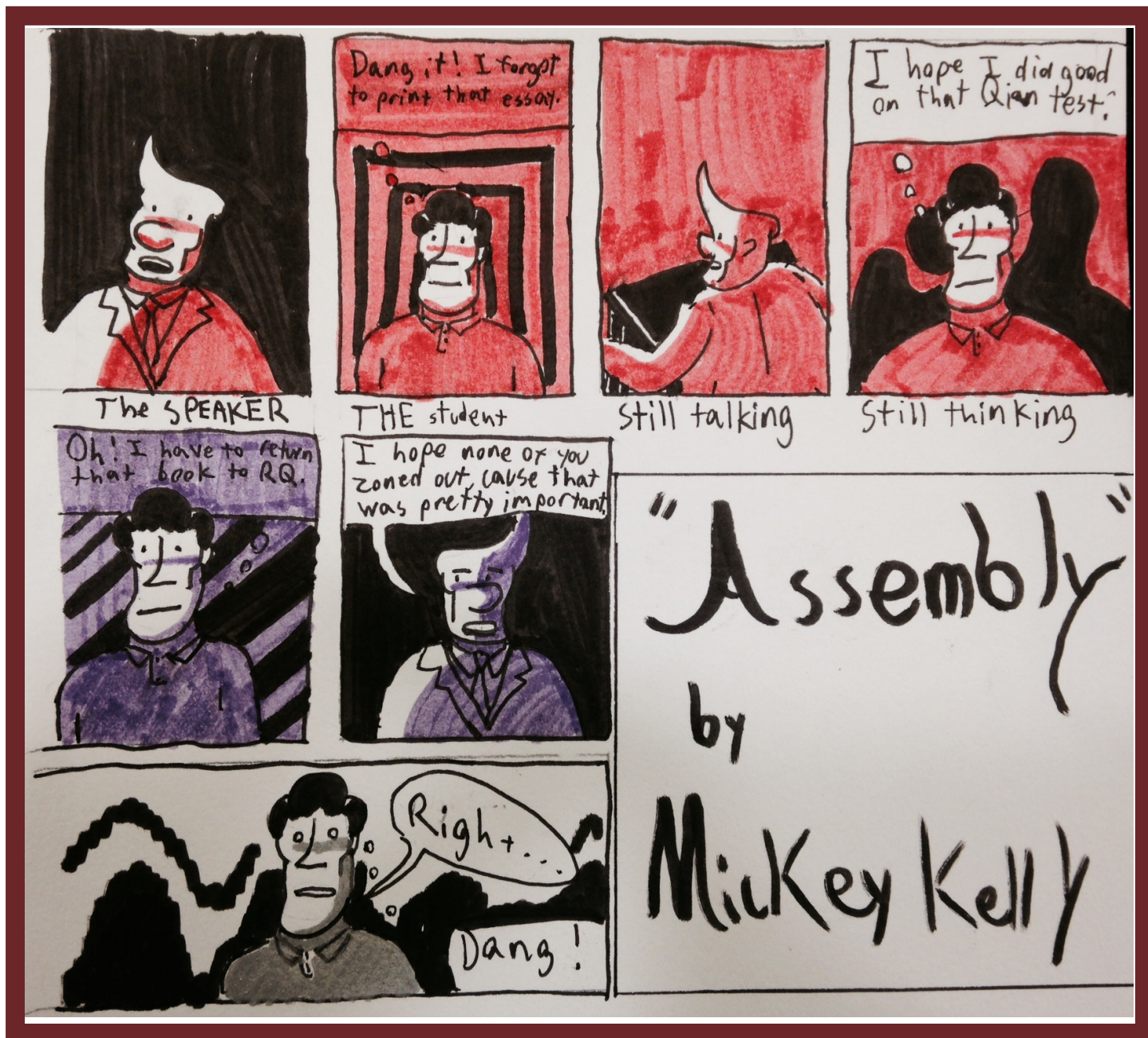
Country Club for the remaining part of the match. MBA's lineup for the HVAC was #1 Singles-Baylor Sai, #2 Singles-Witt Grana, #3 Singles-Richard Cummins, #1 Doubles-Sims Lance and John Wallace, and #2 Doubles-Brain Graves and Scott Wallace. MBA won every single match and swept the HVAC, gaining

10 points, which is the most you can get in the HVAC.

MBA's final match was against McCallie at Sewanee. Against McCallie, there were six singles matches and 6 doubles matches. MBA swept the doubles matches and won the singles 5-1 with an impressive 11-1 win against McCallie, including the scoring and the exhibition matches MBA finished the season with an unheard of 41-1 record overall. The team won every single HVAC event, which is extremely impressive. MBA had an incredible tennis season, and each player was a valuable asset to the winning season.



The 2015 Microbe Tennis HVAC Champs!



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